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IN THE US PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor:
KOMEM et al.

Application Ser. No.: 09/597,461

Filing Date: June 19, 2000

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MULTIPLE
CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS

Examiner: NA



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Attorney
Docket: E02/1

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231
USA

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Enclosed is PTO Form 1449 which lists citations which may be material to the patentability of the above-identified application. This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted prior to any Office Action and no fee is required.

Also enclosed are copies of the references cited. These are being submitted in compliance with the duty of disclosure defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56. The Examiner is requested to make these citations of official record in this application.

This Information Disclosure Statement Under 37 C.F.R. 1.56 is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, that additional matter which is material to the examination of this application does not exist, or that any one or more of these citations constitutes prior art.

The attention of the Examiner is respectfully directed to the following references as being particularly relevant, without detracting from the relevance of the remaining references.

US Patent No. 5,884,274 discloses a method in which a foreign exchange insurance policy is provided for an individual user (consumer). The method actually involves hedging of an exchange of currency, as the foreign exchange insurance covers the risk assumed by the user for such an exchange. However, this method is related to the calculation of a premium for a foreign exchange insurance policy, in which the policy requirements are set by a user, in which the requirements include a user ID. Therefore, the policy is quite clearly directed toward a particular individual user, as denoted by the "user ID". By contrast, the present

invention involves the provision of hedging to merchants based on groups of transactions, such that the individual merchant does not request a particular "policy". Rather, risk is assessed on a transaction basis, and the cost is assigned to the merchant, while the price of the transaction is fixed for the consumer (individual user). Thus, the consumer is protected against risk, while the burden of such protection is shifted to the merchant, thereby differentiating the present invention from the method of US Patent No. 5,884,274.

U.S. Patent No. 5,852,812 discloses a system and method for billing network customers for credit card charges in a different currency than the local currency of the credit card account of the customer. The method involves the step of first notifying the "host data center" of the transaction, after which the transaction charge price is calculated in the local currency of the customer, according to a stored price in the different currency. This transaction charge price is then sent to the credit card processor, and is then billed to the credit card account of the customer. By contrast, the present invention involves the calculation of the price to the customer before the transaction is performed, such that the step of hedging is performed before the transaction. Furthermore, the calculation is performed through existing banking systems in advance of the transaction, rather than through a "host data center" connected to a computer network, after which the transaction is performed and the credit card account of the customer is billed.

U.S. Patent No. 5,897,621 discloses a system and method for determining approval of a transaction between a merchant and a customer. The customer agrees to pay the merchant a certain amount of money for a product in a first currency. The merchant agrees to sell the product for a certain amount of money in a second currency. A server then approves the transaction if the converted amount of money from the first currency to the second currency is within a risk range of the product price in the second currency. By contrast, the present invention does not involve the approval or disapproval of a transaction, nor does it involve the calculation of a risk range. Instead, the present invention involves the determination of a fixed price for the customer, such that risk is placed on the merchant. The merchant receives money in the currency of the merchant according to an exchange from the currency of the customer. However, the merchant does not received a guaranteed sales price for the product, but instead must pay a certain amount to have the risk of the transaction hedged. Thus, the present invention is clearly distinguished from U.S. Patent No. 5,897,621.

Respectfully submitted,



D'vorah Graeser
US Patent Agent
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